

**CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION**

***Mission:***

North Central College is a community of learners dedicated to preparing informed, involved, principled, and productive citizens and leaders over a lifetime.

***Teacher Preparation Programs:***

North Central College offers a specialized undergraduate program to prepare elementary and secondary education teachers. It is an experience-oriented teacher education program based on the liberal arts. The College offers eleven (11) baccalaureate programs leading to certification in Elementary Education, Art, English, Mathematics, Music Education, Physical Education, Science (designations in biology, chemistry, or physics), Social Science (designation in history), and Spanish. Programs at the master's level include Educational Leadership and Administration leading to the Type 75 General Administrative certificate and Curriculum and Instruction.

***Student Characteristics:***

Of the 2,470 students at North Central College, 1,900 are full-time undergraduate students, 225 are part-time undergraduate students, and 340 are graduate students. Minority students comprise 13% of the student body. There is a growing number of international students from 24 countries.. Most students are from Illinois, but students come from 30 states.

***Admissions Requirements:***

Admission to Teacher Education Program: a minimum 2.5 GPA overall, in the major, and in professional education courses; completion of EDN 100 with a minimum grade of "C" (2.0); completion of a minimum of nine credit hours in the major field; a minimum of a "C" (2.0) grade in all professional education courses; self-evaluation and faculty evaluation of dispositions; passing scores on the Illinois Test of Basic Skills; declaration of major/minor; four year plan signed by student's advisor; and transcript evaluation, if applicable.

Admission to Student Teaching: admission to the Teacher Education Program, a minimum 2.5 GPA overall and in the major at the time of application; minimum 2.7 GPA in professional education courses by the end of the term prior to student teaching; a minimum of a "C" (2.0) grade in all professional education courses; and one letter of recommendation from a faculty person in the student's major.

***Accreditation:***

The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools accredits North Central College. The Illinois State Board of Education approves all of the College's teacher preparation programs.

***Teacher Education Vision:***

The goal of the Department of Education is to prepare preservice and inservice teachers to facilitate the learning of all students. Four cornerstones form the foundation of the development of a professional facilitator of learning: knowledge and understanding of subject matter content, pedagogy, student characteristics, and the environmental context of learning.

***Best Practices:***

- Through an innovative Liberal Arts curriculum at North Central College, all students participate in integrative and interdisciplinary studies that focus on global awareness and leadership, ethics, and values.
- The Teacher Education Program combines theory and practice in a series of field experiences in which students take on increasingly more teaching responsibility and are held to increasingly higher standards.
- Field experiences are integrated throughout the four-year program and 40 and 50-hour field experiences are supervised. Over thirty-five school districts provide placements for supervised student teaching.
- Classroom Management and Teaching the Exceptional Child are required courses for both the elementary and secondary program.
- The department developed a standards based portfolio requirement for all students seeking certification. Students are required to submit artifacts that show competency in each of the 11 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.
- The department developed and implemented a monitoring system to identify supports need for individual student success.
- Of 125 syllabi analyzed by the Illinois State Action for Education Leadership Project, NCC's Educational Leadership and Administration Program ranked qualitatively higher than the rest of the programs in addressing the NCATE standards.

***Notable Features and Accomplishments:***

- The department offers a minor in reading. Students completing this 24 credit hour minor are eligible for a reading endorsement and are recognized as Reading Teachers by the state.
- The department has several partnerships with local schools and has been nominated for exemplary partnership awards with Naperville District 203 for three of these partnerships. The Buddy Reading Project with Mill Street Elementary School is a technology project that involves electronic discussion of a common novel between preservice teachers and fourth and fifth grades. The Cardinal Reading Buddies Project provides an 8-week after school reading tutoring program to students at Highlands Elementary School. Both of these projects were nominated as exemplary partnerships by the Naperville Community Unit School District 203 Business Community Education Partnerships for the past two years.
- The department planned for a portfolio event that would provide students with an audience to showcase their professional portfolio. The first event was held in the fall, 2005.
- The department planned for the development of a Liaison Committee, comprised of one representative from each academic department serving the secondary, K-12 program. The first meeting of that group was held winter, 2006.
- The Graduate Coordinator worked with various campus and school community members to plan a Cohort program in Educational Leadership for three local school districts. The program is scheduled to begin in winter, 2007.
- Three Leadership Academies were developed and implemented to provide support for educators, leadership teams and principals in the local schools.
- In the second year of implementation, the Pipeline to Urban Teaching Program provided students with opportunities in high needs schools, as well as scholarships.
- A Verandah experience was provided during Interim for a group of students who grew in their awareness of high needs schools in both Chicago and East Aurora.

<b>Program Information for North Central College 2005-2006</b>
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<b>S.1</b> Total number of students admitted into teacher preparation, all specializations, in academic year 2005-2006	<b>153</b>
<b>S.2</b> Number of candidates in supervised student teaching in academic year 2005-2006	<b>133</b>
<b>S.3</b> Number of faculty members who supervised student teachers:	
➤ <b>S.3A</b> Full-time faculty in professional education	<b>3</b>
➤ <b>S.3B</b> Part-time faculty in professional education but full-time in the institution	<b>8</b>
➤ <b>S.3C</b> Part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution	<b>14</b>
<b>S.4</b> Total faculty student teaching supervisors	<b>25</b>
<b>S.5</b> Student teacher/faculty ratio (Divide total given in S.2 by the number given in S.4)	<b>1:5</b>
<b>S.6A</b> The average number of student teaching hours per week	<b>40</b>
<b>S.6B</b> The total number of weeks of supervised student teaching required	<b>10</b>
<b>S.7</b> Average total number of hours required	<b>400</b>